

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A method for the continuous extrusion of an adhesive formulation ~~production of a composition~~ comprising rubber (20), a hydrocarbon resin (22), and a solvent (26), which method comprises the following steps:

providing a dual screw extruder;

introducing the rubber and the resin into the dual screw extruder at an initial section thereof;

adding at least a fraction of the solvent (26) at a point of the extruder (10) that is downstream of the initial section; and

controlling the temperature of the extruder such that the rubber and the resin are dissolved in the solvent to produce a composition and such that at the outlet of the extruder (10) the temperature of the composition is less than the boiling point of the solvent (26) whereby the composition is ~~an~~ the adhesive formulation in which the resin and rubber are dissolved in the solvent such that the adhesive formulation has tackifying properties.

2. (previously presented): A method according to Claim 1, in which a first addition of solvent (26) takes place at a distance of at least 4 times a diameter of the extruder from the initial section of the extruder (10).

3. (previously presented): A method according to Claim 1 in which the solvent (26) is added at a plurality of different points disposed downstream of the initial section of the extruder (10).

4. (previously presented): A method according to Claim 1 in which, in the portion of the extruder (10) that is upstream of the point at which the first addition of solvent (26) is performed, the temperature is kept within a range of between 60°C and 120°C whereas, in the portion of the extruder (10) that is downstream of the point at which the first addition of solvent (26) is performed, the temperature is kept within a range of between 40°C and 80°C, the temperature in the upstream portion being greater than that prevailing in the downstream portion.

5. (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, which provides for the addition of at least a fraction of the hydrocarbon resin (22) at a point of the extruder (10) that is downstream of the initial section.

6. (previously presented): A method according to claim 1 in which the rubber (20) is selected from the group consisting of natural rubbers, synthetic rubbers and mixtures thereof.

7. (canceled).

8. (previously presented): A method according to claim 1 in which the solvent (26) is selected from the group consisting of hexane, pentane, dichloropropane, and mixtures thereof.

9. (previously presented): A method according to claim 1 in which the dual-screw extruder (10) is of the co-rotating type.